

Ecology and Scenery

From an ecological standpoint, the Canal is of incalculable value to the health of the Potomac River and, by extension, the Chesapeake Bay, as it provides a natural buffer along more than half of the entire length of the Maryland side of the river. Its 20,000 acres is habitat for countless birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles. In fact, it is home to one of the east coast's biodiversity "hotspots": the Potomac Gorge, where over 1,500 species can be found, including nearly 200 that are listed as rare, threatened, or endangered.

History

The C&O Canal has over 1,300 historic structures within its jurisdiction. To put this number into proper perspective, fully 5% of all historic structures within the entire National Park System, comprised of nearly 400 units, are located in the park. It is no exaggeration to say that the park tells the story of 19th and 20th century America. While most obviously appreciated for providing a remarkable glimpse into the history of America's canal and Industrial eras, it is equally valuable as a repository of the history of Native Americans, the Civil War and slavery, westward expansion, immigration, the New Deal, and the wilderness movement.

Recreation

Today, the park is used by millions of visitors who come to stroll, hike, bicycle, birdwatch, canoe, kayak, ski, skate, or otherwise enjoy the natural corridor provided by the abandoned canal and towpath. Making it even more valuable to outdoor enthusiasts are the numerous connections to other trails and paths including the Capital Crescent Trail, the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, the Appalachian Trail, the Western Maryland Rail Trail, the trail system in Green Ridge State Forest, and now the Great Allegheny Passage that connects Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to Cumberland, Maryland (the terminus of the C&O Canal).

CONTACT US:



1850 Dual Highway, Suite 100
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740
301.714.2233
info@canaltrust.org
www.canaltrust.org



Restoring Our Heritage...
Building a Legacy

**Restoring America's
Most Distinctive National Park**

About the Trust

The C&O Canal Trust is an independent, nonprofit organization whose mission is to protect, restore, and promote the C&O Canal National Historical Park. As the official "friends" organization for the park, the Trust seeks to ensure that the C&O Canal's natural, historical, and recreational potential is fully realized.

The Trust marshals the resources of the community—its energy, expertise, and economic might—to the task protecting the park for future generations to enjoy. Through a combination of fundraising, volunteerism, community outreach and education, and hands-on restoration, the C&O Canal Trust is working to reclaim one of America's premier national parks.



With your help, this can mark the beginning of a lasting relationship between yourself, the C&O Canal National Historical Park, and our future.

What makes the C&O Canal so special?

The Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park is Maryland's largest and most visited national park. In fact, it is one of America's most popular national parks, as its 3.1 million annual visitors exceeds the number who pass through the gates at Acadia, Everglades, Mount Rushmore, Rocky Mountain, Shenandoah, Yellowstone, or Zion. Its combination of ecological significance, historical resources, and recreational opportunities has earned it the title of "America's most distinctive national park".

Join us for C&O Canal Pride Days!

The C&O Canal Trust is recruiting volunteers to complete dozens of revitalization projects in the C&O Canal National Historical Park. Over the course of four weeks beginning on April 19th, 2008, volunteers will rebuild trails, paint, rake leaves, spread mulch, cut back overgrown vegetation, plant trees and flowers, and more. For more information or to get involved visit www.canaltrust.org.



Please join us in our efforts to protect, restore, and promote our wonderful C&O Canal by volunteering and/or making a donation TODAY!

- ☐ Yes! I would like to receive periodic email updates.
- ☐ Yes! I would like to learn more about volunteering.
- ☐ Yes! I would like to make a tax-deductible donation in support of the Trust's efforts to protect, restore, and promote the C&O Canal! Amount enclosed \$ _____ . (Please make checks payable to "C&O Canal Trust.")

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Today's Date: _____

Thank you! Please mail this completed form and donation (if applicable) to:
C&O Canal Trust, 1850 Dual Highway, Suite 100, Hagerstown, Maryland 21740
You may also visit us on the web: www.canaltrust.org or call 301.714.2233.